

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-30 and add claims 31-50 as indicated among the following complete set of pending claims:

Claims 1-30. (canceled).

31. (new) A cover plate for an electrical power outlet, the cover plate comprising:

a base having a first longer side and a first shorter side substantially nonparallel to the first longer side, the base including at least one hinge member on the first longer side and at least one hinge member on the first shorter side, the base further comprising a second longer side substantially parallel to the first longer and a second shorter side substantially parallel to the first longer side, the first and second longer sides having lengths longer than lengths of the first and second shorter side;

a portion of the cover plate comprising a set of removable tabs having at least one removable tab, the set of removable tabs connected to the base and configured so that removal of the set of removable tabs forms a set aperture, the set of removable tabs being bounded by a tab set periphery line; and

a head aperture that is shaped and positioned to receive the head of a fastener and a shank aperture that is shaped and positioned to receive the shank of the fastener, but not the head of the fastener, wherein the shank aperture is aligned with a mounting screw aperture of the electrical power outlet when the cover plate is installed on the electrical power outlet.

32. (new) The cover plate of claim 31, wherein the set of removable tabs is a first set of removable tabs, the portion further comprising a second set of removable tabs having at least one removable tab, the second set of removable tabs connected to the base and configured so that removal of the second set of removable tabs forms a set aperture having a configuration different than the set aperture formed by removal of the first set of removable tabs, the second set of removable tabs being bounded by a second tab set periphery line.

33. (new) The cover plate of claim 32, wherein each tab of the first set of removable tabs and the second set of removable tabs is integral with the base.

34. (new) The cover plate of claim 33, wherein each tab of the first set of removable tabs is connected to the base by at least one grooved connector and each tab of the second set of removable tabs is connected to the base by at least one grooved connector.

35. (new) The cover plate of claim 33, wherein at least one tab is connected to the base by a connector having grooves on both a front side and a back side of the base.

36. (new) The cover plate of claim 32, wherein the first set aperture is shaped and positioned to receive a single round electrical socket and wherein the second set aperture is shaped and positioned to receive an electrical socket selected from the group consisting of a duplex socket, a ground-fault circuit interrupt socket, and a single round electrical socket.

37. (new) An electrical cover plate comprising:

- a base comprising a planar member having a front side and a back side, the planar member defining an initial aperture passing through the front and back sides of the base, the initial aperture sized and shaped to receive a toggle switch; and

- a first set of removable tabs comprising at least one removable tab, the first set of removable tabs connected to the base and bordering the initial aperture so that removal of the first set of removable tabs converts the initial aperture to a first set aperture, the first set of removable tabs being bounded by a first tab set periphery line;

- wherein the first set aperture is sized and shaped to receive an electrical hardware device selected from the group consisting of a duplex socket, a ground-fault circuit interrupt socket, and a single round electrical socket

38. (new) The electrical cover plate of claim 37, further comprising a second set of removable tabs comprising at least one removable tab, the second set of removable tabs connected to the base and bordering the initial aperture so that removal of the second set of removable tabs converts the initial aperture to a second set aperture, the second set of removable tabs being bounded by a second tab set periphery line.
39. (new) The cover plate of claim 38, wherein each tab of the first set of removable tabs and the second set of removable tabs is integral with the base.
40. (new) The cover plate of claim 38, wherein each tab of the first set of removable tabs is connected to the base by at least one grooved connector and each tab of the second set of removable tabs is connected to the base by at least one grooved connector.
41. (new) The cover plate of claim 37, wherein at least one tab is connected to the base by a connector having grooves on both a front side and a back side of the base.
42. (new) The cover plate of claim 38, wherein the first set aperture is shaped and positioned to receive a single round electrical socket and wherein the second set aperture is shaped and positioned to receive an electrical socket selected from the group consisting of a duplex socket, a ground-fault circuit interrupt socket, and a single round electrical socket.
43. (new) The cover plate of claim 37, the cover plate further comprising a head aperture that is shaped and positioned to receive the head of a mounting fastener, and a shank aperture adjacent to the head aperture, the shank aperture being shaped and positioned to receive the shank of the fastener but not the head of the fastener, wherein the shank aperture is aligned with a mounting screw aperture of the electrical power outlet when the cover plate is installed on the electrical power outlet.

44. (new) An electrical cover plate comprising:

a substantially rectangular-shaped base comprising opposing first and second longer sides having respective lengths longer than lengths of opposing first and second shorter sides, the base including at least one hinge member on the first longer side and at least one hinge member on the first shorter side;

a first set of removable tabs on a substantially planar member, the first set comprising at least one removable tab integral with the substantially planar member and connected to the substantially planar member by at least one grooved connector configured so that removal of the first set of removable tabs forms a first set aperture in the substantially planar member that is shaped and positioned to receive an electrical device; and

a head aperture that is shaped and positioned to receive the head of a fastener and a shank aperture that is shaped and positioned to receive the shank of the fastener, but not the head of the fastener, wherein the shank aperture is aligned with a mounting screw aperture of the electrical power outlet when the cover plate is installed on the electrical power outlet.

45. (new) The cover plate of claim 44, wherein the substantially planar member further comprises a second set of removable tabs having at least one removable tab, the second set of removable tabs being to the substantially planar member and configured so that removal of the second set of removable tabs forms a second set aperture having a configuration different than the first set aperture.

46. (new) The cover plate of claim 45, wherein the first set aperture is shaped and positioned to receive a single round electrical socket and wherein the second set aperture is shaped and positioned to receive an electrical socket selected from the group consisting of a duplex socket, a ground-fault circuit interrupt socket, and a single round electrical socket.

47. (new) The cover plate of claim 44, wherein the grooved connector comprises a groove in a front side of the substantially planar member and an opposing groove in a back side of the substantially planar member.

48. (new) The cover plate of claim 44, wherein the removable tabs having a thickness and the groove having a depth equal to between 40% and 50% of the thickness of the removable tabs.

49. (new) The electrical cover plate of claim 47, wherein the removable tabs having a thickness, the groove on the front side having a depth equal to between 40% and 50% of the thickness and the groove on the back side of the substantially planar member having a depth equal to between 20% and 40% of the thickness of the removable tabs.

50. (new) The electrical cover plate of claim 47, wherein the removable tabs having a thickness and at least one of the groove on the front side and the groove on the back side having a depth equal to between 20% and 50% of the thickness of the removable tabs.